



LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary

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NEWSLETTER

April/May 2001



Babies are “Born to Read” @ the library™

More than 1500 babies at Virginia Baptist Hospital have received

a new board book through ***Born to Read***, since the program began on August 1, 2000.

Born to Read was the wish of Donna Hladik Smith. Just prior to her death, she and her family discussed a memorial fund that would benefit children. Since Donna loved children and loved to see children read, her daughters approached the Youth Services department for ideas. After careful consideration, Donna and her family decided to endorse a program that would give every newborn the chance to become an enthusiastic reader.

Deborah Hudson, the birth registrar, presents the books to the new mothers. Included with each book is a pamphlet that helps new parents learn the importance of reading to their children beginning from the very first day. The pamphlet encourages parents to read a minimum of 20 minutes a day and also suggests when to read, what to read and how to read. Through early read aloud exposure, children can begin a lifelong love of books and reading.

Donna passed away before the program began, but her commitment to encourage every child to read endures every time a child is born at Virginia Baptist Hospital. Through the generosity of Donna, her family, and others in the community, the

children of Lynchburg have a very good chance of becoming a community of motivated readers.

There are many good reasons for reading aloud to your children. If you would like more information about reading aloud or information regarding ***Born to Read***, please call Lorry Risinger at 847-1717.

Lorry Risinger – Youth Services



Changes at the Circulation Desk @ the library™

Audrey Lenon, a 26-year library employee, retired on January 1. Audrey worked at the circulation desk and was the overdues clerk. She saw many changes in technology during her tenure. Virginia “Ginny” Higuchi, formerly a part-time Circulation Clerk, has been promoted to full-time to fill the vacancy created by Audrey’s retirement. Also, Ona Turner Dowdy became Circulation Supervisor on August 30. She filled the position vacated by Pat Bolling, a 33-year employee. Ona was previously the Circulation Supervisor at Lynchburg College for the past 17 years. Although we know our faithful patrons will miss Audrey and Pat, Ginny and Ona are looking forward to assisting our patrons and to continuing the friendly and efficient service that they have come to expect.

Ona Turner Dowdy – Circulation Supervisor



Gates Grant Means New Computers @ the library™

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing over \$3.65 million in grants to the public libraries of Virginia in FY 2000-01 for hardware to provide public Internet access and computer training labs. The Lynchburg Public Library has been awarded two grants. One grant for \$32,016, will provide 8 Gateway PC's for public access to the Internet and a second grant for \$43,118 will establish a computer training lab with another 11 Gateway PC's. Additionally, the Library of Virginia has provided \$14,000 per institution toward the cost of establishing the training labs. The State funds will provide tables and chairs, PC support equipment and electrical wiring and remodeling a portion of the magazine storage area for use as a new microfilm room. The PC lab will be located in the current microfilm room because the PC's must be available for the public to use to access the Internet, when they are not being used for training. The library will supply from currently budgeted funds all other furniture, equipment and staff costs associated with providing the expanded service. The PC's are scheduled to arrive in early July; training sessions for the public will be will be scheduled as soon as possible. The Gates' grants also provide for two staff to travel to Seattle for training in the technical aspects of operating an NT server and the practical aspects of providing training to the public.

Library staff are really excited about this opportunity to expand service to the community. Already, every day over 125 persons use the library's 8 public use PC's to access Internet.

Lynn Dodge – Library Director



Inventory Currently Underway @ the library™

Volunteers are currently conducting an inventory of the library's 150,000 items. The collection was last inventoried in 1991 when we changed from the old card catalog to the current automated system. The Adult reference collection and the large print collection have been completed, and volunteers will work their way through the entire collection over the coming months.

Volunteers Bob Lightle, Melinda Rosser, Irene Ferrara, and Bobby Wheelock use a hand-held PERCON unit to scan barcodes of books on the shelves. The information is then downloaded into the library system and a report is run listing problems found. This information is then shelf-checked by the Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator Chris Verilla; Jane Jobe the Catalog Librarian corrects errors.

Most errors to date have been old cataloging errors, books are shelved in the wrong area or incorrectly shelved, or books are not in the system at all. Numerous missing books have been found. The goal of inventory is to provide library patrons with an accurate listing of our current holdings and where the materials can be found.

Chris Verilla – Volunteer Coordinator



Summer Reading @ the library™

Why should the kids have all the fun? This summer, in addition to the children's summer reading program, we will be having a **summer reading program for adults!** Details are still being worked on and will be explained in the June/July issue of the newsletter. Plan now to participate!



Magazine survey **@ the library™**

Once a year the library updates our magazine subscriptions. We decide which magazines are no longer being used and which ones we should add. We would like to hear from you, the patron. If there is a particular magazine that you would like to see us add please let us know by the end of May. You can contact the Adult Information/Reference department by calling 847-1566. All suggestions will be considered, although we can't guarantee to purchase every title.

Jim Whalen – Information/Reference



Volunteers Needed **@ the library™**

Branch Librarian Marilyn Martin is looking for one or two reliable older teens or adults to work one afternoon each week at the **Downtown Branch Library** located in City Hall. Volunteers downtown must know how to use a computer and be able to use the library's automated system. Volunteers at the Branch work at the circulation desk and may check books in and out, shelve books, assist patrons with the computer, assist patrons applying for a library card, paying fines, or searching for books, and generally provide backup support for the library staff.

Currently, there are two volunteers at the Downtown Branch. Karen Majewski has been there six years, and Vicki Bonner, a teenager, has volunteered for one year. If you are interested in volunteering at the Branch please telephone the Volunteer Coordinator Chris Verilla at 847-1577. If you are not familiar with the Downtown Branch Library, please feel free to stop by and talk with Marilyn Martin.

Chris Verilla – Volunteer Coordinator



New Volunteers **@ the library™**

One new volunteer at the library is Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek. Bonnie decided to volunteer at the library because the library was always a special place to her when she was a child, and she wanted to give back to a library some of what she has received. Bonnie is volunteering at the Information/Reference desk a few evenings a month. She has helped to shift books, label videos, and assist patrons on the computers.

Bonnie grew up in Wheaton, Maryland and graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.A. in Housing and Applied Design. She also has a Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California.

Bonnie began her job with the City of Lynchburg in June 1999. Prior to that she was the Assistant Town Manager in Blacksburg, Virginia. Bonnie is enthusiastic about her current job. She says she values the opportunity to work with such wonderful employees. She also likes being a generalist, knowing a little about a lot of areas of public service.

In early May, Bonnie will be walking in the Avon 3-Day walk to raise funds for breast cancer research. The Walk is from Frederick MD to Washington DC. This is her second year as a participant and Bonnie says the Walk is an incredible, inspiring experience.

Chris Verilla – Volunteer Coordinator



Library Intern is Happy with Her Experience **@ the library™**

Christina Ciafardoni, a 9th grader at Heritage High School recently completed an internship at the Main Library as part of a program with the Jubilee Family

Development Center. Christina was attracted to the library because she loves to read and is interested in grammatical structure. Her experience gave her a taste of the varied departments in the library, and all of the staff enjoyed working with her. Library Director Lynn Dodge recently received the following letter from Christina:

Dear Ms. Dodge:

I would like to thank you for this incredible opportunity. My understanding of libraries in general is now much greater than it was before I had the chance to work with you at the Lynchburg Public Library. I now have many new and useful skills at my disposal that I did not have before. Now I know how to check books in and out of the library from the inside, what goes on in Technical services, and how much work goes into maintaining a library as big as The Lynchburg Public Library. I plan to volunteer at the library some nights now that I am no longer interning there. I would like you to thank Lorrie in Technical services, and Candy and Ken at the reference desk for putting up with my numerous questions and everyone at the circulation desk for me. I really enjoyed working behind the counter and everyone made me feel comfortable. I'd also like for you to thank all of the people in Youth Services for me, because working there made me realize a lot about what needs to be done when working with children in a library. I think that it would be nice to work in a library for a living, and I think that it would compliment my personality very well. Thanks again, I really enjoyed working with so many new and fun people.

Sincerely,
Christina S. Ciafardoni

Library Hours

Main – Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. – 9:30 AM-5:30 PM
Tues., Thurs.– 9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch – Mon.– Fri. 9:30 AM-5:30 PM



The Most Popular Books @ the library™

What title has been checked out most from the Lynchburg Public Library since we began our automated system in 1991? If you guessed *The Bridges of Madison County* you were correct. Here are the top ten adult fiction books with their circulation figures.

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Number of circulations</u> |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <i>The Bridges of Madison County</i> - Robert James Waller | 672 |
| <i>All that Remains</i> - Patricia Cornwell | 591 |
| <i>Bygones</i> - LaVyrle Spencer | 564 |
| <i>Colony</i> - Ann Rivers Siddons | 534 |
| <i>Let Me Call You Sweetheart</i> - Mary Higgins Clark | 514 |
| <i>November of the Heart</i> - LaVyrle Spencer | 499 |
| <i>The Gift</i> - Danielle Steel | 490 |
| <i>The Firm</i> - John Grisham | 489 |
| <i>Vanish with the Rose</i> - Barbara Michaels | 472 |
| <i>Mixed Blessings</i> - Danielle Steel | 460 |

We will be announcing top-circulating non-fiction books in the next issue of the newsletter.

Main Library

2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

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| Circulation, Renewals, | |
| Returns, Library Cards | 847-1565 |
| Reference and Information | 847-1566 |
| Youth Services | 847-1717 |
| Administration and | |
| Technical Services | 847-1577 |
| Volunteer Program | 847-1577 |

Downtown Branch and Law Library

900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
847-1768